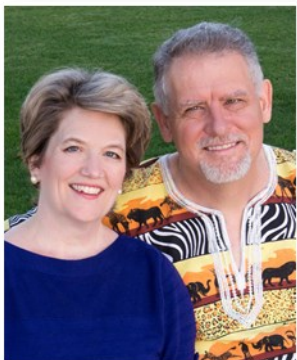


October-  
November  
2019

Our Itinerary



- Oct 6: Faith Fellowship Community Church, Bullhead City, AZ
- Oct 13: Palm Springs Baptist Church, CA
- Oct 18-31: Rwanda Ministry
- Nov 1-15: Nepal Ministry
- Nov 16: GTN 15th Anniversary Celebration
- Nov 24: Maranatha Baptist Church, Globe, AZ
- Dec. 15: Chino Valley Community Church
- Dec 29: Mesa Baptist Church
- Jan 9-17: Myanmar Ministry
- Feb 7-10: GTN Leadership Gathering
- Feb 23: First Baptist Church, Nogales, AZ
- April 7-25: Philippine Ministry
- April 26-May 1: Malawi Ministry



Contributing to the Debate or  
Just Making Noise?



“Buckle up! It’s going to be a bumpy ride!” says the talking head on my computer screen. Of course, he is referencing the unfolding impeachment drama that has engulfed official Washington DC and the studios of all the major news networks. And he’s right. No doubt about it. Regardless of one’s opinion about these events, there is a range of emotions that we all experience. For some folks, life is so busy that the news barely registers. Others are obsessed with each new event. Some are outraged by the things said and done by the President or by key members of congress. Many are afraid of what this portends for the future. Some relish the fight and watch it like a big boxing match where you make some popcorn, sit down and watch it blow by blow. Others are too upset to deal with it for more than a few minutes. Most of us are upset about all of this in one way or another. In fact it may be a good time to invest in manufacturers of blood pressure medications.

I want to give you a different perspective. Now, I would love to tell you that this perspective is born of my exposure to other cultures and the stories I’ve heard of God overruling the schemes of men. However, that wouldn’t be honest. In truth, I fear that I am the ‘popcorn eating, fist-pumping, yelling at the TV,’ type. I tend to always ask, “Who’s on offense and who’s on defense?” Now, there is *some* wisdom and profit in understanding the times, but not as much as I would like to think. I often need to check my spirit and put things back into their proper perspective. No. My perspective here is not my natural one. It comes from God’s Word. God talks about *TRUE* wisdom



In September we wrote about some of the exciting things happening in our ministry as we look forward to 2020. However, we don’t want to skip over the other great things God has been doing recently. In the past few months we have been (unnecessarily) surprised by two amazing occurrences. Let me start with our return to Malawi. In August I was asked to step in at nearly the last moment to replace a trainer who had to change his plans. It was a specific answer to prayer for which we are profoundly grateful! I led a class of 70 through “Caring for God’s People,” the first course in our ‘Timothy’ pastoral skills curriculum. It was a challenge since the material is highly interactive and typically requires a class of no more than 25. We adapted by nearly continual

Grateful for an *Amazing*  
(But Not Surprising) **GOD**

use of breakout groups with English interpreters in each group. We were thrilled with early indications that the class was impactful. During the breaks I was approached by several pastors with specific questions concerning their own ministries. What a joy to talk things over ‘pastor-to-pastor’ with these precious leaders. The class graciously invited me to return and continue the pastoral skills training. I plan to return to Malawi in late April 2020 following our ministry in the Philippines. I look forward to hearing their follow-up reports based on the plans they wrote during our time together. I would like to also give thanks to God for our current monthly support level which has reached 100%! I’m amazed at how this has developed. Our support has gone up and down this year like a commuter plane due to changing life circumstances for many of our partners. Early on, it was as low as \$1150 below our needed monthly support. We worked on it and God was gracious. The level rose to approx. \$150 below regular support before dropping again to \$550 below par. We were preparing to meet with several new potential ministry partners when I received the invitation to train in Malawi in August. I was concerned that

**Contributing to the Debate or Just Making Noise? (Cont'd)**

in James 3:13-15. Please read this carefully and compare what God says to the spirit of our current political dialog and your own spirit when thinking or talking about it. Warning: you may need your steel-toed boots.

**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good conduct, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast in it or deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap the fruit of righteousness. James 3:13-18**

This is meant to encourage us, but it brings a lot of us up short. In fact, when I read it early this morning I sat there with a 'hang-dog' expression for some time. I'm convinced that God doesn't object to our having an opinion, but He does object to the spirit with which we sometimes hold or express that opinion. It is important to stand up for what is right in every realm of our lives including the political realm. It is important to not back down when the matter is far-reaching. However, it is just as important, or more so, to use the weapons of war that God gave to us, not the weapons of the world. These good weapons include prayer, grace, good deeds, faith in God alone, and truth spoken firmly, but humbly. These are the kinds of weapons Paul described with the metaphor of 'The Armor of God.' Such weapons have real spiritual power! How sad when Christians enter the social media fray utilizing the same kinds of insults,



questionable quotes, and unconfirmed news stories as the world. Do we not realize that, on a spiritual level, the first casualty of our current national 'War of the Words' is civil discourse itself? What an incalculable loss! When a society can no longer debate its issues in a civilized way, at some point it ceases to be a civilized society. Christians should be leading the way in civility and biblical perspective in these days. We should never be swept along by the uncivil undertow sucking our culture down.

We know that the world around us is passing away but that the Word of the Lord will endure forever. Why not listen to that Word and allow His Spirit to fill us with peace in the midst of this storm? THEN, we will we have something TRULY important to bring to the to the debate. Anything less is just more noise.



**Grateful for an Amazing (but not surprising) God (Cont'd)**

my prep schedule and trip combined with other scheduled obligations would prevent me from working on partner development for some time. Then a funny thing happened. Instead of us approaching potential ministry partners, they began to approach us. Several individuals and one church contacted us, saying, "We have been following your work and seeking God's guidance. We want to support your ministry!" Some current partners also increased their support. Soon we were over the top! It was like manna falling from heaven! I could almost hear the angel choir singing. We are grateful to all of you who faithfully pray for and support our ministry. You are a wonderful team! To those of you who are new financial partners, thank you, and welcome to the team! God's goodness can be seen in so many ways, there is no reason we should be surprised, but I confess that I often am. I am also amazed.



GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

**Our Praises and Prayer Requests**



- Praise God we are currently at FULL SUPPORT.
- Praise God for a recent opportunity to visit supporting churches, friends, relatives in Iowa.
- Praise God for open doors for effective ministry in six countries in 2020.
- Please continue to pray for a 'not guilty' verdict for our partner in Nepal at his Nov. 29 hearing.
- Please pray for our Oct/Nov ministries in Rwanda and Nepal.
- Please pray for the success of the Global Training Network 15th Anniversary Gala on Nov. 16.

**Ministry Partnership**

**Your financial partnership is essential as we carry out our God given ministry. Please follow the instructions below or on the enclosed response card (US mail version).**

*"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:17, 19)*

**You may give online at:**

[www.globaltrainingnetwork.org](http://www.globaltrainingnetwork.org)

Just click on "Give," then scroll down until you can click on our picture.

A new page will appear with an online giving form.



**Support also accepted at:**

Global Training Network  
PO Box 6507  
Peoria, AZ 85385

(Please include a note indicating that your gift is preferred for the Edmondsons #435.)

Please call GTN at 623-217-3867 if you need any assistance.

**Leave a LEGACY of Support for Missions!**

Would you like to go on supporting the causes God has placed on your heart after He takes you home? You can learn more about planned/legacy giving at [gtnlegacy.org](http://gtnlegacy.org).

